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ANNUAL REPORT

To May, 1880.

TO THE MEMBERS OF

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

The Trustees of the Association for the year ending May 1st, 1880, respectfully report :

The receipts during the year have been as follows :

Cash on hand at the beginning of the year....		\$1,222 91
Subscriptions to Fund, paid in.....		2,900 00
Annual Subscriptions.....		3,156 00
Subscription-Fund for purchase of Oriental Porcelains.....		21,008 84
Exhibition, Entrance-money.....		694 00
Sales of Catalogues.....		147 30
Sales of Photographs.....		3 75
Department of Public Parks : on account of Appropriation—		
Maintenance for 1879.....	\$6,543 35	
Maintenance for 1880.....	4,135 60	
Equipment for the year.....	13,099 03	
Construction.....	133 75	23,911 72
Expense.....		70 48
Loans.....		13,334 07
		<u>\$66,449 08</u>

The expenditures have been as follows :

General Expenses.....	\$2,326 84	
Salaries.....	1,164 50	\$3,490 84
Maintenance, 1879.....	6,543 35	
Maintenance, 1880.....	4,530 26	
Equipment of the New Building.....	14,999 56	
Construction.....	133 75	26,208 92
Babylonian Cylinders.....		496 71
S. P. Avery: on account of purchase of Oriental Porcelains.....		25,000 00
Printing, Stationery, etc.....		470 21
Fire-Insurance.....		1,192 09
Interest.....		1,190 00
Loans Paid.....		7,500 00
Cash on hand, May 1st, 1880.....		900 81
		<u>\$66,449 08</u>

The present financial condition of the Museum is as follows:

Total Subscriptions to Fund, paid.....	\$348,588 90	
Donations, Works of Art, value.....	87,475 50	
Loans Payable.....	9,134 07	
		\$445,193 47
Paid for Paintings, Drawings, etc.....	\$145,494 74	
Works of Art, Donations.....	87,475 50	
Cesnola Collections (\$17,000 still due).....	121,866 98	
MacCallum Collection of Laces, etc.....	2,445 00	
Kensington Reproductions.....	3,160 76	
Etchings.....	3,248 39	
Show-cases.....	9,220 15	
Furniture.....	1,432 84	
Babylonian Cylinders.....	496 71	
Oriental Porcelains (\$10,000 still due).....	25,000 00	
Equipment of New Building (balance).....	2,118 40	
Maintenance, balance 1880.....	1,144 66	\$403,104 13
General Expenses and Repairs (balance).....		41,189 03
Cash on hand, May 1st, 1880		900 31
		\$445,193 47

One year ago the Trustees had the satisfaction of informing the Members of the Museum that their valuable possessions had been safely transferred from Fourteenth Street to the new building in the Park ; and the annual meeting of the Corporation was then for the first time held in that building, which was without furniture.

The appropriation for its equipment was \$30,000 to be placed in the tax-levy of 1879, and \$30,000 in that of 1880 : which was then available only to the extent of the first sum. It was the hope of the Trustees that they would with that amount be able to open a portion of the Museum in the fall of 1879. But the labor of furnishing and equipping the building and arranging the collections proved much more tedious than had been anticipated, and the labors of the Director with his assistants, aided by committees of Trustees, have been continuous and uninterrupted during the entire year. The first sum of \$30,000 was economically expended by the Park Department in strict and courteous accord with the wishes and recommendations of this Board ; and after the commencement of the year 1880, the second like sum was in the same way applied to the purposes of

its appropriation. The peculiarities of the building, its form and arrangement, required extraordinary labor and expense to fit it for the reception of the Museum's collections. With the utmost care, and the adjustment of cases to every possible part of the building, it is still found inadequate to the accommodation of the present possessions of the Museum, and obviously insufficient for that increase which, it is hoped, will now be rapid and continuous.

The second Cesnola Collection has been incorporated with the first; and now, for the first time, this collection is completed as a unit, and arranged for the examination of students. Duplicates have been taken out and formed into collections, to be disposed of hereafter; and some twenty-five hundred objects, which are not duplicates, but which were of minor importance in some respects, have been reserved from exhibition simply because of lack of room in the building.

The importance of Ceramic Art with regard to the manufacturing and commercial industries of our country, as well as its general educational value, have led the Trustees to desire permanent examples as a portion of the exhibitions. In this respect they have heretofore been dependent on the Loan-collection. The influence of that collection in the families and households of our citizens, and on American potteries and importations, is so marked and decided that no doubt could be entertained of the immediate importance of making that art a permanent feature of the Museum-instruction. In pursuance of this plan, the Trustees asked contributions from the Members and others for the purchase of the Oriental Porcelains of Mr. S. P. Avery, some of which had been from time to time loaned to us. This purchase was effected for \$35,000; and the arrangement in the northern gallery of the Central Hall has already proved so useful to practical potters from all parts of the country, and so interesting and instructive to crowds of visitors, that the Trustees congratulate themselves on the acquisition, as certain to prove useful and valuable for all future time.

The history of Glass Manufactures has never heretofore attracted the attention of the American public. The Cesnola Collection illustrates this as an ancient product of beautiful art, and that collection has been placed in the southern gallery.

Mr. Henry G. Marquand has presented to the Museum a choice collection of old Venetian Glass, which has been arranged in cases in the same gallery, in which are some very beautiful specimens of that delicate and graceful work. This is probably the first collection of Venetian Glass which has been made in America. The industry of glass making and decoration is becoming important in this country ; and the Trustees entertain the hope that Mr. Marquand's valuable donation will form the nucleus of an extensive illustration of the art.

Mr Marquand has likewise presented to this institution a valuable collection of ancient American Vases, found in Missouri, in what are called the " Mound-Builders' Tombs:" such relics are very important to the Museum, as in the future one of its features should be a collection of the ancient arts of America.

The Rev. E. L. Magoon, D.D., of Philadelphia, on a visit to the Museum while as yet unopened, very generously presented to it, as a special gift to the people, a valuable collection of eighty-five water-color paintings by the eminent artist Mr. William T. Richards ; and Dr. Magoon proposes to increase the number to one hundred specimens. This collection will be properly and uniformly framed and put on exhibition as soon as possible, so that the public may fully appreciate the generous gift of the donor.

The Trustees have, during the last year, carefully considered the subject of establishing an industrial Art-School in connection with the Museum. The necessity for this has become, to them, more and more apparent. With some exceptions, our artisans show great lack of artistic taste and knowledge, and are practically destitute of originality in design. As a natural consequence, bad forms, improper treatment and handling of material, false construction and tasteless decoration, found in most of our industrial work, show few signs of improvement. It is as easy to make a tasteful as a tasteless work, if those who originate and execute are made familiar with forms of beauty and truth, and are taught the principles of design, adaptation and construction.

The Trustees have seen from general observation, and know from experience in particular cases, that there is ample

dormant talent among the working youths of this city which, if encouraged and developed, would furnish to New York a noble class of mechanics and artificers. Foreign talent is not essentially superior to American. In European capitals, like London, Paris, and other cities, the opportunities for development, through Industrial Schools which receive national encouragement, bring out and educate the talent that otherwise might have remained unknown.

A beginning was made last November, when the Trustees—assisted financially by a friend of the cause, Mr. G. F. T. Reed—issued the following Circular and Notice to employers and workmen:

CIRCULAR.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART,
CENTRAL PARK.

New York, January 6th, 1880.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is especially called to the enclosed circular, giving notice of the establishment of Industrial Art-Schools in New York.

Manufacturers of artistic objects in France, England, and Germany, long ago discovered the necessity for the more thorough education of their workmen and apprentices in designing, and established schools for the purpose.

These schools have not only raised the standard of taste in the community, but, as is well known, have been the means of enriching the manufacturers.

The Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in taking the initiative in this work, earnestly invite your co-operation, and request that you will interest your workmen and apprentices in it, urging the attendance of those who give promise of development, and afford them other assistance that may be in your power.

Any suggestions pertaining to the further usefulness and development of these schools will be gladly received by the Trustees.

NOTICE.

FREE INDUSTRIAL ART-SCHOOLS.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART has established Schools for the instruction in the industrial arts.

Two classes are now forming, one for teaching the Art of Design as applied to working in wood, and the other in metals.